361 (material for roofing huts), the Indians are apt to build their villages in
824 the proximity of some grove, or forest, of palms (›palmar‹). As a case in instance, the Choroti village at Tatarenda was situated quite close to a palm grove, and not very far from a largish palm forest. It is of im-
[262] portance that algaroba trees should be growing in the neighbourhood, as the fruit of this tree plays a prominent part in the food arrangements of these Indians.

342 The huts are of a very primitive character, and are built in the following manner; With a digging-stick (fig. 27) of hard, heavy wood, a succession of holes is dug, or jabbed, in the ground, so as to form a circle with a diameter of 2 metres or upwards. In each of these holes is planted an unlopped, bent-grown branch, thick end downwards, so that the tips of the branch point towards the centre of the circle. By this means a cupola-shaped frame is formed (fig. 26). This frame is covered with a thick layer of palm leaves and grass (figs. 16, 25), unless palm leaves are difficult to obtain, when the hut will be covered with grass only, although huts thatched in this way have less rain resistance. But even the most carefully built Choroti huts are, however, poor enough dwellings which, in any heavy downpour of rain, are unable to keep those inside them from a wetting.

[142 291 301 412]

Fig. 18. A man holding a pestle in his hands. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

The huts have one, or even two, entrances, about one metre in height (figs. 16, 25), but huts of the largest size are sometimes provided with several entrances. A sort of porch, constructed of branches and grass, may occasionally be built out from the entrance. When several huts are close together, they may not unfrequently be connected with each other by means of covered passages, or tunnels, built similarly to the huts.

352 The latter do not contain many utensils. Ranged along the wall, bowls
415 made of gourd shell, a few clay vessels and a wooden mortar, are gene-
824 rally seen. In prettily knitted net bags of spun caraguatá fibre,[1] the Choroti keep all manner of small articles, such as mussel-shell spoons,

[1] Caraguatá, or chahuar (chaguar), Bromelia serra, is, as I have already pointed out, especially common in the Chaco.

wooden sticks for fire-drilling, toilet articles, magic rattles, etc.

1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

352 [513] wooden sticks for fire-drilling, toilet articles, magic rattles etc. Contrary to the Chiriguano, the Choroti do not use bedsteads or hammocks, but sleep on the ground, with only an animal skin, or a woollen mantle between themselves and the ground.

[142 291]

Fig. 19. A man, with his daughters. Choroti. From the dry soil forest region between Caiza and Crevaux. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

343 251 At the cooking-fires in front of the huts, the Choroti now and then erect square sheds, with flat, grass-covered roofs. These sheds are constructed like food-storing racks (fig. 28), and are used both as a protection from the sun and as sleeping places during hot nights According to Nordenskiöld, the Indians on the Pilcomayo use the roofs of these sheds for drying fish on.[1] I am of opinion that these sheds, originally, were only designed for the storing, drying, smoking or roasting of fish, and that, therefore, their use as shade-givers or sleeping-shelters is only

[1] Nordenskiöld (13), p. 36.

[text continues on p. 47]

2: Nordenskiöld E-5 (1908-1909) 1919
SK6 Choroti SK6
Ashluslay SK5

Guató.[1]) We find skin mats among the Toba, Tapiete, Mataco, Chané, Chiriguano, Yaro-Chaná,[2]) some Guarani tribes in Paraguay[3]) Charrúa,[4]) Caingang in Rio Grande do Sul[5]) Angaité[6]) Payaguá[7]) Guató[8]) Araucanians[9]) Patagonians[10]). and Fuegians.[11]) JACINTO DE CARVAJAL speaks of them among the Indians on the R. Apure[12]) in Columbia, and it is to be presumed that skins are also used by some other Indian tribes for lying on. In a Mosetene fairy-tale that I noted down in Covendo, the jaguar is spoken of as having skin mats in his hut. The narrator evidently wished to emphasise how poorly the jaguar's hut was furnished. The Mosetene themselves have mats woven out of palm-leaves.

I have counted the skin mats among the southerly cultural elements, although skins are also used in isolated cases as mats in other parts.

Seats, which are so widely used throughout the north of S. America, are not used by the Choroti and the Ashluslay.

[1]) (3) p. 231.
[2]) SEPP p. 51.
[3]) Ibid. p. 54.
[4]) AZARA (1) Vol. 2 p. 12.
[5]) TESCHAUER p. 23.
[6]) COMINGES p. 122.
[7]) AZARA (2) p. 361, 10 (3) p. 179.
[8]) MAX SCHMIDT (3), p. 179.
[9]) MEDINA p. 173.
[10]) OUTES (3) p. 257.
[11]) GALLARDO
[12]) p. 204.